

Atty Dkt. No.: SIER-022CON
USSN: 10/826,466

AMENDMENTS

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Please incorporate the following amendments into the claims of the subject application.

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether an agent inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription, said method comprising:

(a) contacting said agent with a first expression system comprising a GC-Box 5 repressor binding site and a **first** coding sequence operably linked to a TERT promoter under conditions such that in the absence of said agent transcription of said coding sequence is repressed;

(b) contacting said agent with a second expression system comprising a **second said** coding sequence operably linked to **[[a]] said** TERT promoter, **wherein said second expression system** ~~that~~ does not comprise **[[a]] said** GC-Box5 repressor binding **element site**;

(c) determining whether transcription of said **first** coding sequence **in said first expression system** is repressed in the presence of said agent; and

(d) **determining whether transcription of said coding sequence in said second expression system is altered in the presence of said agent; and**

(e) identifying said agent as an agent that inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription if transcription of said **first** coding sequence **in said first expression system** is not repressed in the presence of said agent and transcription of said **second** coding sequence **in said second expression system** is not altered in the presence of said agent.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein **each of** said **first** contacting steps occurs in a cell.

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49. (Original) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a small molecule.

50-52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein said cell does not express telomerase.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein said cell is an MRC5 cell.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said ~~first~~ coding sequence encodes a luciferase.

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said ~~first~~ coding sequence encodes a secreted alkaline phosphatase (SEAP).

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a biomolecule.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, wherein said biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, oligonucleotides, saccharides, fatty acids, steroids, purines, pyrimidines, and derivatives or structural analogs thereof.

59. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein each of said ~~first~~ expression systems is contained in a vector.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 59, wherein said

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vector is a plasmid.

61. (Previously Presented)
vector is a viral vector.

The method according to Claim 59, wherein said